MAGIC TREE

A LONELY LIGHTHOUSE ON A ROCKY CAPE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC...

12-4

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INSIDE, A YOUNG LAD CAREFULLY SEALS A LETTER AND ENTRUSTS IT TO HIS FRIEND, STORMY THE PETREL...

HERE YOU ARE, STORMY. HOLD IT TIGHT!

I WILL, TOMMY.

AND DON'T GET LOST, STORMY!

I WON'T, TOMMY.

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LITERALLY A BLIZZARD OF MAIL DESCENDS ON SANTA'S WORKSHOP AT THE NORTH POLE...

12-5

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NEVER, NEVER HAVE THERE BEEN SO MANY LETTERS FROM MY LITTLE FRIENDS!

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AND NEVER, NEVER HAVE I RECEIVED A LETTER LIKE **THIS** ONE!

SANTA HAS RECEIVED A MOST UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS REQUEST...

WELL, BLESS MY BUTTONS! A YOUNGSTER WHO LIVES IN A LONELY LIGHTHOUSE ASKS FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE THAT WILL REMAIN FRESH AND GREEN FOR A WHOLE YEAR!

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A SHINING CHRISTMAS TREE THAT WILL MAKE EVERY DAY CHRISTMAS...

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...AND EVERY NIGHT, A BEACON TO GUIDE SEAMEN PAST THE DANGEROUS ROCKS!

WHAT A FINE IDEA!

A TREE THAT WILL MAKE EVERY DAY CHRISTMAS FOR A LONELY BOY... AND BY NIGHT BE A BEACON FOR SEAMEN!

BUT... BUT...

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12-7

SUCH A TREE CALLS FOR MAGIC... AND I'M NO MAGICIAN...

BUT, BY JINGO! I KNOW SOMEONE WHO **IS**!

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THE COTTAGE OF MERLIN THE MAGICIAN.

ARCHIMEDES, IT WILL HAPPEN ANY MINUTE NOW.

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I'M GOING TO GET A LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL... I JUST FEEL IT COMING...

RINGGG

AH!

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SANTA TURNS TO HIS OLD FRIEND MERLIN FOR A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FAVOR...

A MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE, YOU SAY? ONE THAT WILL BRIGHTEN EACH DAY... AND LIGHT UP EACH NIGHT?

EXACTLY!

12-9

WHY, AH... I SUPPOSE I COULD TRY...

AFTER ALL, YOU **ARE** THE WORLD'S GREATEST WIZARD!

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BUT A THIRD PARTY IS LISTENING IN...

HO-HO! THE WORLD'S GREATEST BUNGLER, HE MEANS. I'VE GOT MORE MAGIC IN MY LITTLE FINGER!

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MERLIN AGREES TO CONJURE UP A MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE FOR SANTA...

BULLY FOR YOU! IT WILL BRIGHTEN THE LIFE OF THE LITTLE LAD IN THE LONELY LIGHTHOUSE!

12-11

HAPPY TO HELP, SANTA.

WHEN IT COMES TO MAGIC, YOU'RE THE GREATEST!

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AN EAVESDROPPER DISAGREES...

"THE GREATEST." SNORT HE CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THE MARVELOUS MAD MADAM MIM!

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MERLIN GETS TO WORK ON THE MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE...UNAWARE THAT HIS BITTER RIVAL, MADAM MIM, IS OUT TO THWART HIM...

AH! HERE'S A LIKELY ONE!

12-12

RIBBIDY KIBBIDY YIBBIDY SPREE...A WHEE...A SCREE... A CHRISTMAS TREE!

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RATHER GOOD!

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AS MERLIN RETURNS TO HIS COTTAGE, MADAM MIM APPEARS...

NOW I'LL SHOW THE OLD BUNGLER...

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I'VE GOT MORE MAGIC IN MY LITTLE FINGER THAN HE'S GOT ALL OVER...

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ZIT!

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CACKLING, MADAM MIM SLIPS AWAY AS MERLIN RETURNS...

JUST WAIT TILL HE SEES HIS BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TREE!

12-14

!

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"THE WORLD'S GREATEST MAGICIAN"! HEE HEE HEE

???

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BAFFLED, MERLIN SUMMONS UP HIS MAGIC TO PRODUCE A NEW CHRISTMAS TREE...

HIPPITY ZIPPITY BLIPPITY FUMM... PRESTIDIGITONIUM!

12-15

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AH!

HEE HEE

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MERLIN DISAPPEARS INTO THE FOREST...MAGICALLY TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO A BIRD... AND WINGS BACK AS MADAM MIM MOVES TOWARD THE NEW CHRISTMAS TREE...

GO!

HO HO!

MAGICALLY CHANGING HIMSELF INTO A BIRD, MERLIN KEEPS WATCH OVER HIS BITTER RIVAL...

WITHER... SHRIVEL... DROOP...

12-16

!

...AND DIE!

ZIT!

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SO! MADAM MIM WANTS TO PLAY TRICKS!

HEE HEE HEE!

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IN THE LONELY LIGHTHOUSE...
GOSH! I HOPE SANTA WILL BRING MY YEAR-ROUND CHRISTMAS TREE!
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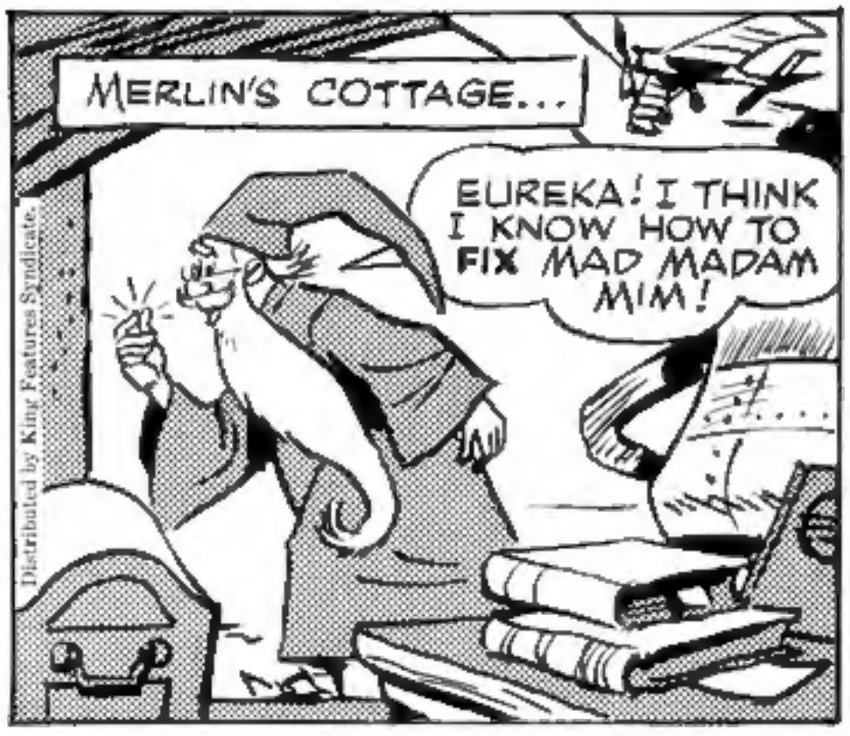
SANTA'S WORKSHOP...
BLESS MY BUTTONS! I HOPE MERLIN HASN'T FORGOTTEN THAT MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE!
DECEMBER


MERLIN'S COTTAGE...
EUREKA! I THINK I KNOW HOW TO FIX MAD MADAM MIM!
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UNDAUNTED, MERLIN STARTS TO CONJURE A THIRD CHRISTMAS TREE...
JIGGLEDY ZIGGLEDY KLIGGLEDY PUMM...
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...PRESTIDIGITONIUM!

HEE HEE! SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN!
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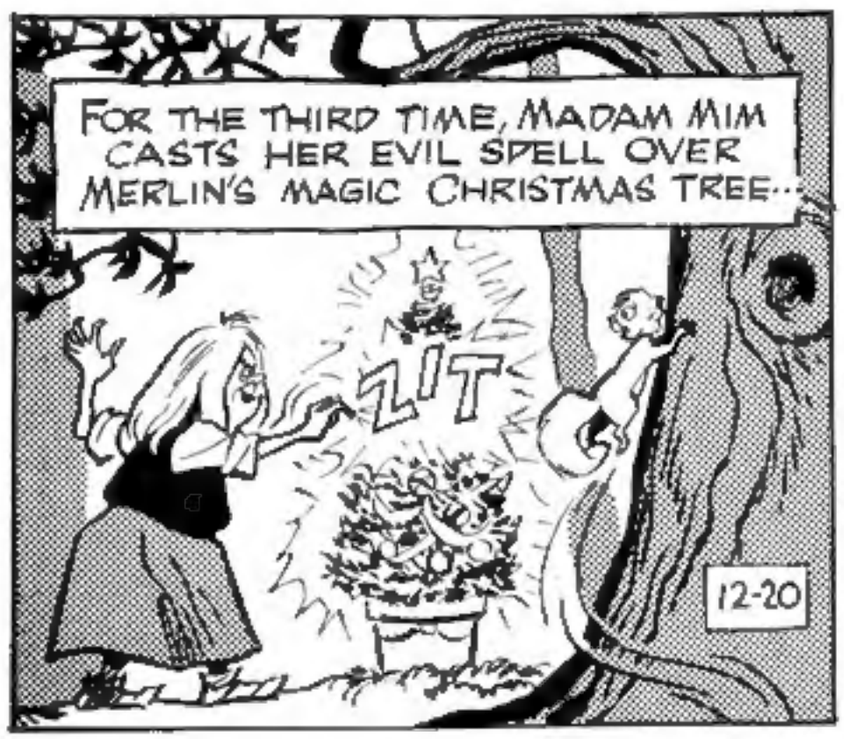
FOR THE THIRD TIME, MADAM MIM CASTS HER EVIL SPELL OVER MERLIN'S MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE...
ZIT
12-20

BUT NOW A STRANGE LOOK COMES OVER THE WITCH...
I-I FEEL STRANGE...
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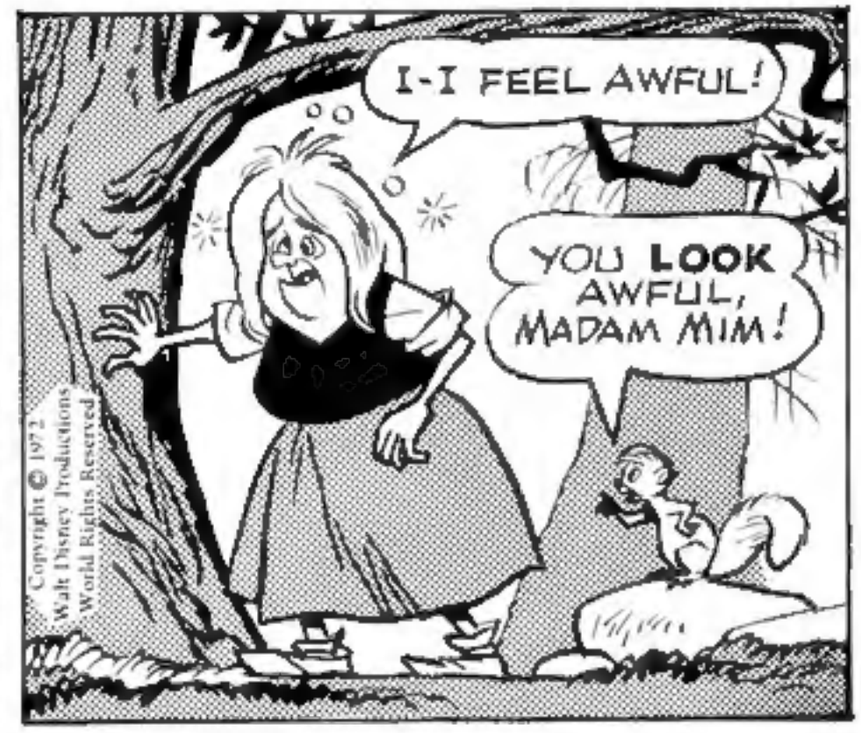
I-I FEEL AWFUL!
YOU LOOK AWFUL, MADAM MIM!
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I MADE THAT TREE FROM THE *BANEFUL NOXOSIS BUSH!* AND YOU SCRATCHED YOUR PINKY ON IT!

MERLIN!

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OF ALL THE LOWDOWN, UNDERHANDED... *OW!*

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IT'S NOT SERIOUS. YOU'LL BE AS GOOD... I MEAN AS **BAD** AS EVER IN A FEW WEEKS!

MOAN GULP SOB

WITH MADAM MIM NULLIFIED, MERLIN CONJURES A MAGNIFICENT MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE...

...PRESTIDIGITONIUM!

12-22

WITH ANOTHER FLOURISH OF HIS WAND...

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SANTA'S WORKSHOP: THE NEXT MOMENT...

BLESS MY BUTTONS! HE DID IT!

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CHRISTMAS EVE EVE...

WE'RE GETTING AN EARLY START THIS YEAR SO WE CAN SWING BY THAT LONELY LIGHT-HOUSE WITH THE MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE...AND OTHER THINGS!

12-23

LATER, AT THE LONELY LIGHTHOUSE...

HE'S COMING! HE'S COMING!

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YES, SANTA **IS** COMING... WITH A MERRY CHRISTMAS...FOR EVERYONE... EVERYWHERE!

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